



African Violet

MAGAZINE

Meet AVSA's 2023 Director Nominees P.10

What You Need to Know About INSV P.36

New Life from a Leaf P.54

AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY

For accurate service, send your inquiries to the correct person.
Always include your name and address.

■ AVSA Business

•**AVSA Office Address:** AVSA, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720

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•**Official Correspondence:** AVSA Secretary, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. *Email:* secretary@avsa.org.

■ Membership and Affiliates

•**New or Renewal Membership:** Membership application on white protective cover of *AVM* or at www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org/participate/membership. Send check payable to AVSA in U.S. dollars from a U.S. bank; VISA or Mastercard for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office; or pay online.

•**Change of Address:** Send new address to AVSA Office at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address.

•**Membership Cards:** Sent to Associate Members. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of *AVM*.

•**Membership Committee:** Send ideas, offers to help and requests for assistance to Stephen Covolo-Hudson.

Email: membership@avsa.org.

•**Affiliate Committee:** For information on how to organize a chapter, write Jeri Anderson. *Email:* affiliate@avsa.org.

■ Shows and Judges

•**Shows and Judges Committee:** Mary Corondan.

Email: judges@avsa.org.

•**Show Schedule Approval:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and approving schedules, email Susan Anderson at showschedule@avsa.org and attach a copy of your show schedule.

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•**Judges' Duplicate Cards:** Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Corondan, 434 Plumwood Way, Fairview, TX 75069. *Email:* judges@avsa.org.

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•**Fundraising:** Randy G. Deutsch, Chair.

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•**Funds:** Booster Donations, Boyce Edens Research Fund, Barbara Burde Endowment Fund, Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund.

•**Payment:** Contribute through the website or mail to AVSA Office; please designate fund.

■ African Violet Magazine

•**AVM Editor:** Sophia Bennett, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. *Email:* editor@avsa.org.

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•**Plant Registration:** Joe Bruns.

Email: registration@avsa.org.

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•**Research:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified, potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith. *Email:* jsmith4@bsu.edu.

•**AVSA Scholarship Program:** Dr. Charles Ramser. *Email:* scholarship@avsa.org.

■ AVSA Convention

•**Convention:** Kathy Lahti, Convention Chair.

Email: convention@avsa.org.

•**2023 Convention:** May 28–June 4, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia.

•**Future Dates:** If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Chair.

•**Convention Programs:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Convention Chair.

•**Convention Awards:** Send suggestions to Vickie Crider. *Email:* awards@avsa.org. Send contributions to AVSA Office.

•**Commercial Activities, Sales and Exhibits:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Kathy Bell. *Email:* commercials@avsa.org.

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African Violet MAGAZINE

Volume 76 Number 1

ON THE COVER:

Love Potion

Hybridized by: P. Sorano/
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Grown by: Michael Jackson

Standard

Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky



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African Violet Society of America

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message

By Susan Anderson

Email: president@avsa.org

Welcome 2023! The holidays were a whirlwind of activity. I hope you enjoyed time with your friends, family and violets.

Fall Executive Committee Meeting

For the fall meeting, the Executive Committee traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, and met during the Missouri Valley African Violet Council convention. It was an absolutely beautiful show. The quality of the exhibits was top-notch. Thanks to everyone for their hospitality.

The EC has been working on several behind-the-scenes projects to help the society function more efficiently. A system for digitally archiving AVSA's most used records and documents has been developed within the iMIS office management system. Now every committee will be able to archive pertinent documents for their work. Building this archive will enable a smooth transition between chairpersons, as the necessary information and tools will be readily available online.

The EC has also reviewed the results of the membership survey and is considering several options for providing specialized products and programs for our members. We will be working to develop a series of virtual programs similar to those offered at the 2020 Cyber Convention.

Affiliate Support

My local affiliate recently attended a large plant sale, which was held in conjunction with several other plant societies. It was a very fun event because plant people naturally gravitate to other plant people, and soon they are discussing all

sorts of plant-related issues. While talking with members of a few other societies, I learned the issues AVSA is experiencing are common among all plant groups, particularly at the affiliate level. Membership and recruitment are challenging. Meeting locations are more expensive than ever. And it is difficult to get an edge on the digital world when we would rather be working on our plants. Creating engaging and interactive programs has enabled many groups to remain strong.

The ability to educate growers with current and reliable information is always in demand. Local clubs are the frontline teachers to new growers and must keep members interested. AVSA wants to assist with educating African violet growers and provide quality information. Thus, AVSA will be investigating options for sharing program materials between clubs. Together, we can support each other and expand our collective knowledge and abilities.

Try and Try Again

Comments from the membership survey indicate there is room for improvement, particularly with the website. To address these matters, expect to see slight changes take place. Please understand that modifications take time and may not solve all concerns immediately. It is an experiment, much like trying new fertilizers or new lighting systems on our collections. Small, incremental steps will allow us to find the best path forward.

The new year is ahead — let's make the most of it. Happy growing, showing and sharing!



Editor's Notes

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

Happy New Year! You'll notice some new things with this issue. The magazine's dimensions have changed a little bit. We've gone from 64 pages to 60. (We also have a new printer, but I assure you the transition has been so seamless you probably won't notice a thing there.) These changes are intended to help us cut costs and focus more on the quality of content rather than the quantity. It's part of our ongoing quest to make the magazine more interesting, useful and sustainable for members.

The January/February *AVM* introduces you to some new potential directors for AVSA for 2023 (page 10). There are new growers to meet and maybe some new ideas to try.

I understand an old foe is striking growers around the country. Questions about Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) were popping up like crazy on social media in December. Our own Sandra Skalski provides a primer on what the virus is, how to identify it and how to avoid it (page 36). It can be hard to know where to go for fact-based information these days, but we pride ourselves on being one source. Thank you for your support of this work.

Elena Korshunova is a familiar name to many African violet enthusiasts. This Russian hybridizer was kind enough to give us some insight into her growing philosophy and work (page 32). She also shared some gorgeous pictures you're sure to enjoy.

Gifting African
violets to friends
or young people
can have a
lasting impact.

We brought back one article from the archives to go with the many original pieces we have in this issue. In the November/December magazine, Linda Sumski referenced an old article by Kurt Jablonski on grooming best practices. If that left you wishing you could read it for yourself, we're happy to present it on page 40.

I was very touched by Rich Follett's beautifully written piece on page 54 about how one African violet leaf propagated by his grandmother introduced him to a life-long hobby and connected him to the past (his beloved relative) and the future (the students in his classes). Gifting African violets to friends and community members, or introducing young family members and colleagues to the miracle of growing new plants from single leaves, can have a lasting impact. Will you be the source of inspiration for someone?

Whether you stick to many old habits or try all kinds of new things this year, I hope 2023 is a joyous time for you.



Photo credit: Galina Lazarenko

LiK-Aura Nezshnosti

2022 New Introduction

Hybridized by: G. Lazarenko
Standard

Award-Winning Designs from the 2022 AVSA Convention

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

We continue our series on winners from last year's AVSA Convention in Little Rock by showcasing several designs. Congratulations

to all of these talented people, who took home Best in Class awards for their exhibits. All photos by Winston J. Goretsky.



"Pig Trail"

Exhibited by: Candace Baldwin

"River Market"

Exhibited by: Linda Hall





“Gangsters”

Exhibited by: Rebecca McMeel

“Sister Rosetta Tharpe”

Exhibited by: Annie Hibbs





**“Crater of
Diamonds State Park”**

Exhibited by: Glenda Williams

“Bath House Row”

Exhibited by: Glenda Williams





“Hog Wild”

Exhibited by: Fran Russom

“Glen Campbell”

Exhibited by: Fran Russom



Board of Directors Nominations for 2023

By Linda Price

Email: nominating@avsa.org

Each year, the AVSA Nominating Committee develops a slate of candidates for upcoming board positions. This year, we have six nominees for the position of Officer and five nominees for the position of Director. Members will vote the week of the AVSA National Convention in Atlanta (May 28 to June 4). Get to know our nominees below and be sure to vote this spring.



Mary Corondan
Fairview, Texas
President

I became interested in African violets because of the influence and encouragement of my mother and grandmother. I have grown violets since 1978 when I became a member of AVSA.

Currently, I am a member of the First Nighter African Violet Society of Dallas, where I have served in many offices, including President, and currently am Treasurer. I am also Treasurer of the North Texas African Violet Judges' Council. As an active member of Lone Star African Violet Council, I have served as President, Secretary, Convention Chair and Awards Chair.

In addition to serving the past two years as 2nd Vice President of AVSA, I have been Secretary, a member of the Building Committee, the Awards Committee, and have served as a Director twice. I am the Chair of the Shows and Judges Committee and a Master Judge.

I have been the “*And the Winners Are...*” columnist in the *African Violet Magazine* for the past 25 years.

Having taught in public schools for 23 years, I currently am retired. I have a Masters of Music Education degree from Arkansas State University and reside in Fairview with my husband, Bill. We have one daughter and three grandsons.



**Glenda Williams
McDade, Texas**
1st Vice President

It is an honor to accept this nomination to serve as your AVSA 1st Vice President. I truly appreciate your vote of confidence.

The special chemistry and talents of our AVSA membership and what we give back to our communities are key to keeping the AVSA strong. Public outreach, education and full support of AVSA programs that provide these services are key goals to a successful AVSA organization. By meeting these goals, we will be successful not only in growing membership, but in meeting the needs of our growing communities. It is exciting to continue this AVSA leadership journey, meeting and working with our extended AV family to further explore and share AVSA's rich history and culture.

I am a native Texan and AV enthusiast living with my husband Jim on a small farm in

McDade, a quaint rural community near Austin. My earliest memories are growing up playing in the family garden. My love of AVs began in the 1970s with a gift of my first AV NOID and learning to propagate in a shoebox in my kitchen window.

My AVSA service includes: AVSA 2nd Vice President (2021-current); AVSA 3rd Vice President (2019-2021); AVSA Director (2015-2017); AVSA Ways and Means Committee Chair (2014-2018); Show Chair, 2019 AVSA National Convention, Houston, Texas; Convention Co-Chair, 2013 AVSA National Convention, Austin, Texas; Senior Judge; special assignment as AVSA Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Coordinator (including “boots on the ground” disaster recovery work with Amy Carruth, AVSA Office Manager, during 2019 Tropical Storm Imelda event); and AVSA Commercial Vendor.

My other volunteer services to the horticulture community include Lone Star AV Council President (2017-2021); Central Texas Judges’ Council; memberships in local AVSA affiliates LSAVC Independent and Heart of Texas African Violet Society; and the Texas/Bastrop County Master Gardeners Association (special TMG/Texas AgriLife training/certifications in plant health/diagnostics education, entomology and greenhouse management). I have a bachelor’s degree in industrial technology and retired after 35+ years with extensive experience in the technology industry, specializing in strategic planning and legislative/fiscal analysis in state government.



Rich Follett
Strasburg, Virginia
2nd Vice President

Rich joined AVSA as a Life Member in 2002 at the Washington, D.C., convention and hit the ground running. In the years since, he

has served on various committees, written

dozens of articles and authored two columns for *AVM*, survived a turn as a National Convention Chair (Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 2011), served on the AVSA Board of Directors, hybridized a registered variety or two, and proudly earned (and used) a Senior Judge credential. Along the way, he has made friendships to last a lifetime and instigated no small amount of mischief. Despite expert coaching and state-of-the art support from AVSA friends far and near, he still cannot get an African violet to bloom on schedule for a national show, even with fervent prayer and painstaking attention to detail. He remains undeterred.



Richard Craft
Las Vegas, Nevada
3rd Vice President

My love for African violets began sometime in 2006 when I purchased several violets from a hardware retailer. I was already growing

foliage plants and was interested in growing an indoor flowering houseplant. One died and another stopped blooming, so I started doing some research and stumbled upon AVSA. In the first issue of the *African Violet Magazine* I received, what really caught my attention were the ads at the back of the magazine. Before I knew better, I had placed a substantial order of a mix of standards, semi-minatures, miniatures, trailers and several gesneriads.

I managed to kill half of those violets from that very first shipment. Reading the *AVM* greatly increased my knowledge as I learned about soilless growing mixes, pots, lighting, watering, fertilizing, pest management and propagation.

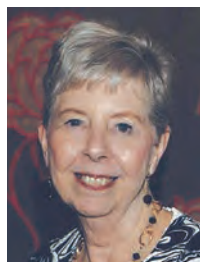
Nowadays, this hobby has turned into a full adventure as I grow to show. Becoming an AVSA judge has helped me tremendously in growing better plants. I’ve helped judge shows at the Copper State African Violet Club

in Arizona and the Lone Star African Violet Council's (LSAVC) annual convention in Texas.

Once I mastered growing African violets, I felt a need to reach out to others to help them do the same. I helped found the Glitter Gulch African Violet Growers affiliate in Las Vegas, Nevada, and became its inaugural president, serving for four years. I also serve as a LSAVC independent member in Texas.

At my first national convention in 2017, I began serving AVSA as a photographer for the Library Committee. I am now the Vice Chair/YouTube Channel Head for said committee. I have served as an AVSA Director (2019-22) and am currently the Chair for the Advertising Committee. I also serve as a website developer for the TechWeb Committee.

A recent membership survey revealed overall satisfaction with AVSA, yet there are areas that need to be addressed in order for our organization to survive and stay relevant to the public growing our beloved African violets. Survey respondents' comments have been distributed to various committees and, of course, the Executive Committee. As AVSA 3rd Vice President, I will help to address these inadequacies by shoring up the weak spots, improving established procedures and pursuing new avenues in an ever-changing market. It's my honor to serve AVSA in this capacity.



Sue Ramser
Wichita Falls, Texas
Secretary

Sue Ramser is a 51-year member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls. She has held all officer positions for it and the

Lone Star African Violet Council. She is also active in the North Texas African Violet Judges'

Council, having served as Parliamentarian, Corresponding Secretary, Secretary, Vice President and President.

Sue has been a member of AVSA for 50 years and has served as a member of the AVSA Classification Committee, Aide to the President for the 1988 AVSA Convention, the AVSA Affiliate Committee Vice Chairman, elected Director, AVSA Sales and Promotion Table Volunteer Coordinator, Shows and Judges Committee Secretary, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policies and Procedures Committee, Treasurer, Secretary, 3rd Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and President. Sue is an AVSA Honorary Life Member, Master Judge and teacher. She compiled "Teaching Tools" and, with Dr. Barbara Pershing, completed the updated version in 2013. She also surveyed judges and compiled "Comments for Judges," recently completing an update. Sue's past service for AVSA affords her the experience to work for the good of AVSA in the future.

Sue is a graduate of the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Her husband, Charles, is professor emeritus of management at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. They have four children: Chuck, Jr., consultant and entrepreneur; Dr. Melissa Thomas, principal scientist with a biotech company; Christina, vice president of merchandising operations for At Home; and Christopher, director of research for the Austin, Texas Chamber of Commerce. They also have three grandchildren. Sue's other interests include genealogy, which led her to qualify for membership in The Daughters of the Republic of Texas and National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

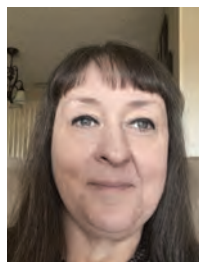


Terri Post
Sioux City, Iowa
Treasurer

I am a CPA and have been in the accounting industry for 33 years. I currently work for a CPA firm with nine locations in South Dakota. I work mainly in governmental and nonprofit auditing for the state of South Dakota. During my entire career, I have enjoyed working with many nonprofit organizations.

I currently serve as the AVSA Finance Chair, where I have prepared AVSA financial statements, annual budgets and tax returns for the years 2009 to 2021. I have also served as Show Co-Chair once for AVSA and twice for the Missouri Valley African Violet Council, where I have served, in past years, as Treasurer. I am also a member of the Lone Star African Violet Council.

I live on acreage in Sioux City, Iowa, with my husband, a dog, a cat and two mini horses. I grow a lot of African violets, which I have enjoyed for about 50 years. It is truly an honor to be nominated to continue to serve as Treasurer for AVSA.



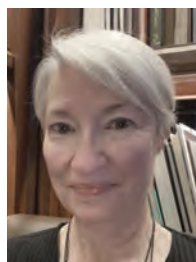
Penny Eggleston
Vancouver, Washington
Director

I am a retired special needs school bus driver, mother of four amazing adults and grandmother of four perfect grandkids, each of whom has a special talent about them that keeps me entertained. I find that also in African violets.

I started growing 11 years ago after my husband bought me a darling spiral plant shelf with space for six plants. I quickly filled the six

spots with beautiful violets, only to watch them die over the next few months. I took another trip to my local grocery store and spent another \$30 of my husband's hard-earned money to buy six more, only to have them die also! I am not a person who easily accepts failure, so I decided to go to the all-knowing internet and see if there was any information to help me. I spent the next few days filling my brain with as much information as I could. While searching for help, I stumbled across African Violet Addicts and African Violet Nerds. You can only imagine my excitement. There were people just like me who killed violets, and even more to help me! Over the next few months, I learned how to keep them alive and even became successful at getting new babies to grow from leaves. I know enough now that I no longer buy six violets from the grocery store, but buy 12 at a time from amazing growers that have made this journey both fun and educational.

I am thankful for the friends I have made and those who have answered my rookie questions. My granddaughter Isis finds my interest in African violets so crazy she documented my addiction in a video called "My Strange Addiction: African Violets." Happy growing!



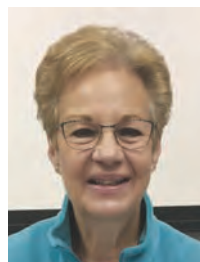
Anna Lammersen
San Francisco, California
Director

My passion for African violets started in the early 1980s when I began growing for a few years. The desire to once again grow beautiful blooming violets happened in 2013. I attended my first AVSA National Convention that year and have been to every one since. Learning from others, meeting new friends and reconnecting with familiar faces are the best parts about conventions.

I love growing minis and have several in micromini pots — the perfect size for container gardens. Entering the design category in shows is challenging and so rewarding.

When I retired from my career in pediatric nursing, I moved to Las Vegas and joined the local club. During our first show, I was Staging Chair, Judges Chair and Awards Chair. After moving back to San Francisco, I joined the Blue Bottle Coffee team and work as a barista. I am currently a member of the Lone Star African Violet Council and participate in its annual convention. As an Advanced Judge, I have had the opportunity to judge at local, regional and national shows along with the privilege to learn from more experienced judges.

I appreciate the nomination as a Director and will do my best to encourage attendees of shows to enter not only plants but also designs.



Gail Podany
Minnetonka, Minnesota
Director

I am honored to be nominated for the AVSA Board of Directors. I previously served a term as a Director and since then have continued to serve as a member of the Publications Committee.

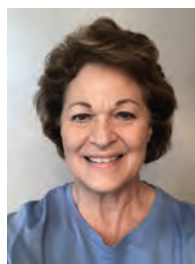
I grew up in Minnesota and have owned a townhouse in Minnetonka for about 35 years. I have been active on several of the townhouse association's committees and have been on the Board of Directors for about seven years.

I retired in 2019 after working for 40 years as a paralegal. I miss the people but appreciate having more time to devote to my violets and other activities.

I began my life with African violets when my sister and I encountered a show sponsored by the North Star African Violet Council at a mall. Our mother had grown violets, but we had never seen anything like these show plants. The members were so encouraging and welcoming that we ended up joining. That was over 25 years ago. Since then, I have served over the years as President, Vice President, Secretary, Director and Show Chair. I am currently the Vice President and am tasked with scheduling meetings and programs.

I am also a member of the African Violet Society of Minnesota and Minnesota Council of Judges. I had the honor of serving as Assistant Convention Chair when Minnesota hosted the 2006 AVSA Convention. I gained such respect for the work involved in putting on a convention. I am now a Master Judge. I enjoy judging at our local affiliate shows as well as the national conventions.

I have attended 23 AVSA conventions. I look forward to going every year for the wonderful educational programs, new judging experiences, seeing old friends, making new ones and, of course, the salesroom!



Carol Semrau
Ramsey, Minnesota
Director

I've lived in Minnesota my whole life. I've been married for 48 years and have two daughters and six grandchildren. I was employed as an X-ray technician and nuclear medicine technician for 20 years at a hospital. I was also employed as a health paraprofessional for 25 years at an elementary school. I retired eight years ago. I'm actively involved in a knitting group.

After buying many African violets in a local mall, I joined the North Star African Violet Council 27 years ago and am currently the President. I've also been Vice President, Secretary and a Director. I'm also a member of the African Violet Society of Minnesota, the Minnesota Gesneriad Society and the Minnesota Judges Council, of which I'm the Secretary. I joined AVSA 26 years ago and am a Master Judge. I currently serve on the Commercial Committee.

I was a Director for AVSA a few years ago. When I was asked to be a Director, my first thought was no! I didn't really know what the duties of a Director were. I also felt intimidated by all the knowledgeable AVSA members. Turned out it was the best decision. It really made me feel like a part of AVSA. I got to know so many more people, and it got me more involved and wanting to help. I would strongly encourage other people to say yes if you are asked to be a Director. I don't think you will regret it.



Nancy Sullivan
Centennial, Colorado
Director

I attended Adams State College, where I majored in biology and chemistry. I have three grown children and two grandchildren who

I see often.

I was started down the path of what I like to refer to as my African violet addiction by my

grandmother when I was 8 years old. She had violets in every square inch of window space, and I loved to help her water and groom her plants. I was delighted when she brought me three plants to grow. With her help, I was successful in raising these plants and had them for many years, along with many others that found their way into my collection.

I joined my first African violet club in the 1970s and enjoyed the fun and companionship that we all find with others who share our interest. Raising my family made time scarce, and I wasn't able to join another club until the early 2000s. I served as an officer, including President, until it disbanded. I am now in two African violet clubs and am serving as President in one of them.

I became a judge in 2018 and just became an Advanced Judge. I am also the President of the Mile High Judge's Workshop in Denver, Colorado. I have attended nine AVSA conventions and enjoy working with all of the many people it takes to bring about a successful convention. I had the privilege to help judge the show at our last one in Little Rock, Arkansas.

I currently have several light stands in my basement where my violets bloom and grow. I am particularly interested in vintage hybrids and species. I am very pleased to be nominated to the Board of Directors for AVSA, and I look forward to supporting this organization in any way I can.

Growing Tip

I add 1/4 teaspoon of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) per gallon of water once a month, along with my fertilizer. It helps the

plants stay very green since it frees up the absorption of fertilizer and helps to keep the soil from becoming too acidic. —Paul Kroll



Shows and Judges

By Mary Corondan

Email: judges@avsa.org

It has been a few years since most affiliates have had an AVSA show. The procedures for applying have changed and can be found at www.africanvioletocietyofamerica.org. Locate this information by going to Member Sign In, then Sign In. Next, click on Member (Only) Content, then Leaders, then Shows and Judges Page.

The Shows and Judges Page contains most of the information you will need to register your show, request approval of the show schedule, obtain the SSA packet, order rosettes and report the results of your show. There are several buttons on this page; each is provided to streamline a step in the process.

Here is a review of the procedure: First, the local show chair registers the local show and requests approval of the local show schedule from the AVSA Schedule Approver. Please plan to do this at least two months before the show. Click on the Contact Schedule Approver button to send an email request to the AVSA Schedule Approver at showschedule@avsa.org.

The message should include the following:

1. Full contact information of your show chair (or whomever is working on the schedule, accessing the SSA packet and ordering rosettes). Include the name, phone and email, please.
2. Request for review and approval of the show schedule.
3. Attach an electronic copy of the show schedule as a document file.

The Schedule Approver will correspond with the point of contact to ensure the schedule conforms to the rules of an AVSA show and will issue an approval.

Helpful hint: Show schedules should include the required rules of an AVSA show as outlined in the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*. When preparing the show schedule, include the date, time, location and theme information on the cover page. The schedule should also include all three AVSA collection classes (Standard, Mini/Semi and Species) and the required AVSA horticulture and design division rules. It is advisable that within the rules, an appropriate contact person be identified with phone and email, so participants in the show know who to contact with questions.

Payments for registering the affiliate show and ordering AVSA Collection Rosettes are made by clicking on Register Show and Pay for SSA Packet. Click on it to pay the registration fee for the AVSA show and order AVSA collection rosettes. This option is most expeditious and is offered for those that wish to pay by credit card. Cash or check payments (payable to AVSA) may also be mailed to the office. The fees are noted on the website and in the *African Violet Magazine*. Show schedules will not be approved nor rosettes shipped until payment is received. Once payment is received, rosettes will be mailed from the AVSA office.

To obtain the SSA Packet, click the button that says Download SSA Packet. Packets are no

longer mailed to you. Please print your own. It is advised that you print the blue/green SSA cards in color for displaying on the awards table.

Finally, at the conclusion of your show, please submit the “And the Winners Are ...” and Tally Time forms so AVSA may record the winners. Most clubs may submit these results directly from the AVSA Show Entries Program or by returning to the website and clicking the Affiliate Show Awards Report button. The forms are also included in the SSA packet and may be mailed or emailed.

Also at conclusion of your show, please return the AVSA Collection Score Sheets and AVSA Standard Show Award form to the Schedule Approver so your show scores may be properly recorded. These forms may be scanned and emailed by clicking Contact Schedule Approver, or the originals may be mailed.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact scheduleapprover@avsa.org or judges@avsa.org. Please plan ahead and do this well in advance of the show.

Enjoy your show!



Photo credit: Tatiana Pugacheva

PT-El' Khmel'

2022 New Introduction

Hybridized by: T. Pugacheva
Standard



And the Winners Are ...

By Mary Corondan

Email: winners@avsa.org

■ Missouri Valley African Violet Council, MO — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: King David, Dale's Dream, The Alps; Best Standard: Dale's Dream, **Carol Tjaden**.
- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginner's Luck, Jolly Pepper, Optimara Little Inca; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Beginner's Luck; Best Miniature: Little Cupid; Best Species: S. 5b clone *grotei* Silvert; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Sumski**.
- Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5f clone *orbicularis*, S. *shumensis*, S. 3 clone *shumensis* Mather EE, **Jennifer Vincent**.
- Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Anthony Freedland**.
- Best Gesneriad: *Primulina tabacum*, **Linda Hall**.
- Best Design, Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**.

■ North Star African Violet Council, MN — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's Rose Bud, Cajun's Fair Maiden, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; Best Standard: Rebel's Rose Bud, **Gail Podany**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hunter's Slippery When Wet, Ace of Clubs, Rebel's Rose Bud, **Carol Semau**.

- Best in Show/Best Miniature: Optimara Little Sonata, **Bonnie Harris**.

- Best Trailer: Rocky Mountain Trail; Best Species: S. *ionanthus* subsp. *grotei*; Best Design, **Barbara Werness**.

- Best Gesneriad: *Primulina dryas* 'Hisako', **Randy Deutsch**.

- Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Semrau**.
- Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Randy G. Deutsch** and **Barbara Werness**.

■ Tidewater African Violet Society, VA — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Rose Bouquet, Wild Irish Rose; Best AVSA Species Collection: S. 5c1 clone *ionanthus*, S. 5c1 clone House of Amani, S. 5i clone *velutinus*; Best in Show/Best Species: S. 5c1 clone *ionanthus*; Best Standard: Rose Bouquet; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Duet; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Knight**.
- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Angel, Tipped Honey; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Frazzle Dazzle'; Best Design, **Jackie Leitzel**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Tammy Dubois**.



AVSA Affiliate Update

By Jeri Anderson

Email: affiliate@avsa.org

Right after the holiday season, some of us would like to just kick back and relax. But don't get too relaxed because soon your club will be working on holding shows and sales, and you will be behind on activities such as plant grooming and repotting. Make a new year's resolution to work on your plants all through the winter so come spring, you will have plants ready for those shows and sales.

Think of ways you can help your local club and AVSA. Just about all clubs can use a few more members, so plan on inviting some of your friends to attend a meeting with you. They may become African violet lovers and join your club.

Our *African Violet Magazine* can always use another article. If your club had an interesting program, write an article for the *AVM*. I think we all enjoy seeing the pictures of beautiful plants, but you can be the person who submits a picture. Not all plants bloom at show time. If you have a plant that is blooming, take a picture and send it to our *AVM* Editor, Sophia Bennett, at editor@avsa.org.

Can you get your club to work on providing a little treat for the AVSA convention goodie bags? What else can you think of to help your club and AVSA?

Have you ever taken time to look over our AVSA website? There is so much information to

be found. From the www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org Home page, check out what information is available under each of the Look, Learn, Shop, Participate and Donate options. Especially helpful is the FAQ area found under Learn, then Violets 101. If you have a question that's not answered by one of the prepared topics, you can submit your question to "Ask an Expert" and shortly receive an answer.

Is your club information up to date? If not, please take the time to update the information. From the Home page, place your cursor on the Participate button and select Find an Affiliate Club from the dropdown menu. Now, on the top portion of the Affiliate page, click on the Update Affiliate Club Information button. The Affiliate Update Form will open for you to input your club's information.

There are several states that do not have even one African violet club. If you live in one of these states, please consider starting a local club. The AVSA website now has all the information you need to start a new club. From the Home page, click on the Participate button and select the Find an Affiliate Club option. You will now see the Guide to Start a Club box at the top of the screen. Everything you need to do when forming a club is explained.



Registration Report

By Joe Bruns

Email: registration@avsa.org

■ Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses —

Dolgeville, NY

Bahama Breeze

- (11368) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Double pale pink frilled star/raspberry edge.
- Variegated dark green and white, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. •Standard

Cherry Delight

- (11369) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Double white large frilled star/magenta eye.
- Dark green, plain, quilted/red back.
- Standard

Evening Escape

- (11370) 08/29/2022 (Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Single blue sticktite star/white rays, random dark lavender band, white-green ruffled edge.
- Variegated light green and white, holly, quilted, wavy. •Standard

Fatal Attraction

- (11371) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Single-semidouble dark coral, frilled, pansy/blue fantasy/thin white edge.
- Dark green, plain, quilted/red back.
- Standard

Fatal Magnetism

- (11372) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Single-semidouble chimera dark coral frilled pansy/light purple stripe, blue fantasy, thin white edge.
- Dark green, plain, quilted/red back.
- Standard

Hello Indigo

- (11373) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Double blue large ruffled star.
- Variegated dark green, white and beige, plain, quilted/red back. •Standard

Right As Rain

- (11374) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Semidouble-double orchid and white large frilled star.
- Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. •Standard

Sentimental Journey

- (11375) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Double hot pink large frilled star/blue fantasy.
- Variegated dark green, white and beige, plain, quilted/red back. •Standard

Simply Mauve-lous

- (11376) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Semidouble-double mauve-lilac frilled star/mulberry band, white edge.
- Medium green, round. •Standard

Speckled Halo

- (11377) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Semidouble medium blue frilled star/pink fantasy puffs, raspberry band, random white-green edge.
- Variegated dark green and ivory, plain, quilted/red back. •Standard

Taffylicious

- (11378) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Single-semidouble pink two-tone frilled star/white edge.
- Variegated, dark green, ivory, plain, quilted/red back. •Standard

Texas Stardom

- (11379) 08/29/2022 •(Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/P. Sorano)
- Single white large sticktite frilled star/lavender eye, rays.
- Dark green, plain, quilted/red back.
- Standard

Seeking Applicants for the AVSA College Scholarship

By Dr. Charles Ramser

Email: scholarship@avsa.org

For more than 20 years, the African Violet Society of America (AVSA) has offered a college scholarship program for students — undergraduate and graduate — who are studying ornamental horticulture, floriculture, plant genetics, botany or an equivalent program in an accredited college or university. The award is funded through the AVSA Boyce Edens Research Fund. Dependent upon fund availability at award time, one or possibly two students are selected annually. The award is generally offered for one academic year — two semesters — at a time. Awardees may apply in successive years but will be in competition with new applicants.

Prior to application, students normally must have completed a minimum of 24 semester- or quarter-hour college credits while maintaining at least a “B” average. Awards are based upon merit.

The application form is available on the AVSA website or by requesting a copy through the AVSA office. The completed form shall be submitted via standard mail, along with an official transcript and two professor recommendations, to the Scholarship Selection Committee by March 1, 2023 for the 2023-24 academic school year.

AVSA remains dedicated to, and encourages enthusiastically, the recognition and advancement of horticultural and related study at the college level.

**Send application, official transcript and
two faculty recommendations to:**

Dr. Charles Ramser
2413 Martin St.
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Violets Most Wanted List

By Mary Thompson

Email: preservingviolets@avsa.org

Happy New Year. I hope you had great holiday celebrations. We are desperately looking for the Original 10, especially Commodore,

Mermaid and Viking. Here is our complete list of what we are looking for. Can you help us out?

Admiral
Alamo Haven
Alamo Red
Amethyst
Ann
Ask Neva
Bagdad
Blue Boy
Blue Heron
Bryte Pixie
Buckeye Blithe Spirit
Buckeye Crackerjack
Buckeye Eyestopper
Buckeye Freckles Galore
Buckeye Gee Whiz
Commodore
Creeside Moonbeams
Dab's 'N Splashes
Dallas Cowboys
Dancin' Trail
David Lee
Denver Doll
Dorlene
Emilie Savage
Fantasy Florale
Fisher's Leone
Fredette's Sugar Blues
Friend Phyllis
Georgia Lover
Goluboi Dunai
Granger's Wonderland
Happy Harold

Harbor Blue
Helen Van Pelt Wilson
His Promise
Irresistible
Juicy
Kaneland Beauty
Kira
Leawala
Lilian Jarrett (Supreme)
Little Italy
Lonestar Lady
Lonestar Snowstorm
Maas' Janet
Maas' Sashah
Mac's Misty Meadow
Maple Sugar
Mary Craig
Mary D
Masked Man
Mauna Loa
Melodie Kimi
Mermaid
Midget Bon Bon
Midget Silver Fox
Marshlands
Moonlight Mural
Mosaique
Neptune
Norseman
#32
Ocean Eyes
Old Dominion Sparkler

Optimara Crater Lake
Optimara Marilyn
Optimara Marilyn II
Persian Princess
Picasso
Pink Beauty (F.Brockner)
Plum Tip
Rhapsodie Clementine
Rhapsodie Elfriede
Rob's Fuddy Duddy
Sailor Boy
Shan
Siberia Moon
Something Special
Southern Delight
Suncoast Calypso
Teen Craze
Teen Dream
Teeny Weeny
The Alps
The King
Tipt
Tooch
Viking
White Lady (P. Ruggeri)
White Madonna (Baker)
White Madonna (Eyerdom)
Winsome
Young Man's Fancy



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

LE-Prekrasnaia Kreolka

Hybridized by: E. Lebetaikaia
Grown by: Mary Corondan
Standard



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Willawong

Hybridized by: R. Robinson
Grown by: Mary Corondan
Semiminiature

Coming Events

Check the AVSA Events page (www.africanvioletocietyofamerica.org/events), search the local club on Facebook or contact the organizers listed below for the latest information on these events.

■ February 10-11 — Florida

First Lakeland African Violet Society
“Violets are Tea-rrific” Show and Sale
Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
Lakeland, FL
Friday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Mary Jane DiLorenzo or
Carol Ann Burrell: flavclub@gmail.com
www.FirstLakelandAfricanVioletSociety.com

■ February 18 — Arizona

Desert Sun African Violet and
Gesneriad Society
“Violets on Broadway” Show,
Sale and Educational Seminar
Phoenix Valley Garden Center
1809 N. 15th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Bill Patterson: wlp1955@cox.net
JoAnne D’Angelo: flojox918@aol.com

■ February 24-25 — Florida

Tampa African Violet Society
“Violet Invasion” Show and Sale
Temple Terrace United Methodist Church
5030 E. Busch Blvd.
Tampa, FL
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Celeste Christman:
celestechristman@c21be.com
Mary Lou Harden: mlhard@verizon.net

■ March 3-5 — California

Central California African Violet Society
“Violets Celebrate Mardi Gras” Show and Sale
Fresno Fairgrounds
1121 S. Chance Ave.
Fresno, CA
Friday-Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Renee Wilson: sjw927@gmail.com
Lola Sutherland: larrylolas@gmail.com
www.fresnoviolets.org

■ March 4-5 — Texas

Spring Branch African Violet Club
Spring Show and Sale
Judson Robin, Jr. Community Center
2020 Hermann Drive
Houston, TX
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Teresa Kaminski: tckaminski@sbcglobal.net

■ March 18-19 — Illinois

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
Display and Sale
Chicago Botanical Garden
1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, IL
Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Susan Bradford: gesneriadlady1@aol.com

■ March 24-25 — Florida

Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society
30th Annual African Violet Display and Sale
San Jose Church of Christ
6233 San Jose Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL
Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bobbi Johannsen:
bobbi@jacksonvilleviolets.org
www.jacksonvilleviolets.org

■ **March 25-26 — New York**

Sweetwater African Violet Society
“Violets Take a Vacation”
47th Annual Judged Show
West Sayville Fire Department
80 Main St.
West Sayville, NY
Saturday: 2-5 p.m.; Sunday: noon-4 p.m.
Mary K. Chelton: mkchelton48@gmail.com

■ **March 31-April 2 — Virginia**

Richmond African Violet Society
“African Violets — Precious Gems”
Show and Sale
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave.
Henrico, VA
Friday: 1-5 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;
Sunday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sharon Long: slong15781@aol.com

■ **April 2 — Ontario**

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
“Breaking Out in Colour” Show and Sale
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave. E.
Toronto, ON
Sunday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Doris Brownlie: jtbrownlie@idirect.com
Sue Smith: smith.sue2011@gmail.com
www.tavgs.ca/sales.html

■ **April 14-15 — Minnesota**

African Violet Society of Minnesota
Spring Show and Sale
Northtown Mall
398 Northtown Drive
Blaine, MN
Friday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Randy G. Deutsch: rcjsch@prodigy.net
April 22-23 — Virginia

■ **April 22-23 — Virginia**

Tidewater African Violet Society
“Violets on the Job” Show and Sale
Norfolk Botanical Garden
6700 Azalea Garden Road
Norfolk, VA
Saturday: 1-5 p.m.; Sunday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Pat Knight: kemts@cox.net

■ **April 29 — Ontario**

Lakeshore African Violet Society of Toronto
“Violets of the North” Show and Sale
St. Philip’s Lutheran Church
61 W. Deane Park Drive
Toronto, ON
Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Beverley Williams:
beverleyandbrucewilliams@rogers.com
Doris Brownlie: jtbrownlie@idirect.com

■ **May 6 — New Jersey**

Garden State African Violet Club
Show and Sale
Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ
Saturday: noon-4 p.m.
April Van Ness: bvanliz@aol.com

■ **May 6-7 — New York**

African Violet and Gesneriad
Society of Syracuse
“Violets On Vacation” Show
Beaver Lake Nature Center
8477 E. Mud Lake Road
Baldwinsville, NY
Saturday: 1-6 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Penny Moore: penny.moore.bs@gmail.com

■ **May 13 — Ontario**

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Spring Sale
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave. E.
Toronto, ON
Sunday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Doris Brownlie: jtbrownlie@idirect.com
Sue Smith: smith.sue2011@gmail.com
www.tavgs.ca/sales.html

■ **May 20 — New Jersey**

African Violet Club of Burlington County
Annual Judged Show and Sale
Burlington County Lyceum of
History and Natural Sciences
307 High St.
Mount Holly, NJ
Sunday: noon-5 p.m.
Blanche Renz: bfrenz2000@yahoo.com



In Search of New Violets

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: jsmith4@bsu.edu

A question in last issue's column asked about twin leaves, or cases where two leaf blades are joined at some point onto a common petiole (leaf stem). Some refer to this as "Siamese twin leaves." This prompted several questions about the process of fasciation or crested plant growth. Some also refer to this growth as "zippering." Although this growth form is not genetic in terms of being an inherited trait, it is a change in the expression of the genetics of a plant. I hope the following questions and responses will be helpful.

Q: What causes a plant to become fasciated or zippered?

A: Several hypotheses have been suggested, although I'm not aware of a study that has nailed down the specific cause. Some have suggested a virus infection; others, a plant response to a shock in the environment, such as a sharp temperature or culture change. Some cultivars seem to have a genetic predisposition, as fasciation does seem to happen more frequently in them compared to others.

Whatever the trigger, the change at the cellular level is usually the same. The apical meristem or growing point for the stem should be a circle or dome-shaped structure. Leaves are normally produced at regular intervals along the circle, resulting in the rosette growth form we prize in African violets. Fasciated plants have a change in the circular shape for the apical meristem. The shape changes, slowly at first but more rapidly over time, into an elongated oval or band. Multiple growing points

are created for leaf formation. Over time, the size of the oval-shaped growing apical meristem increases along one axis. The result is a fasciated plant.

The change from circle to oval also causes the cells to make a mound of rapidly dividing tissue. This creates the uplift or "crest" that is sometimes used to label this change in growth form. Fasciation is known in many plant families and is actively desired in some plants, such as cacti and other succulents.

Q: Can fasciation be reproduced by leaf cuttings?

A: Yes, in many cases, a leaf cutting taken from a fasciated plant will produce babies with the same trait. However, many growers find the trait undesirable, as it ruins the rosette growth form needed for show plants, and fasciated plants are often sent to the compost pile.

Q: Once a plant has fasciated, can it be pruned back to normal growth?

A: Many have tried to treat the extra growth of a fasciated crown by plucking out the extra leaves, trying to shape the apical meristem back into a circle. These attempts may appear to succeed for a short while but nearly always fail. Once the apical meristem has lost the round shape, it appears highly reluctant to be forced back into a true circle. This is why many growers compost a fasciated plant as soon as the crown shows the growth change.

Q: Is it possible to get a leaf cutting from a fasciated plant that will produce babies with normal growth?

A: Sometimes growers have reported success in taking leaf cuttings from a fasciated plant and getting babies with normal apical meristems. I suspect that success is related to which leaves are taken for the cuttings. Older leaves that were produced when the apical meristem was still circular and “normal” appear to have the best chance for producing normal leaf cuttings. If the fasciated plant is a cultivar that you really want or need to keep in your collection, I’d suggest taking several leaf cuttings from the oldest leaves. Older leaves will have their own problems in producing babies, but with some luck you may get babies that do not show the fasciated growth form.

Q: Why would leaves taken from a fasciated plant produce babies with the fasciated growth form?

A: Whatever the reason for the change from round apical meristems to elongated apical meristems, the change is somehow communicated to the leaves. It is unclear if this is an actual mutation (change in the DNA) or a

change in the expression of the DNA due to some disruption in cell signaling. Epigenetics is an area that looks at changes in cell signaling or gene expression. The importance of epigenetics is well known in humans but has been little studied in plants. Whatever the biological cause, the process of fasciation somehow changes the expression of genes in asexual reproduction through leaf cuttings, and the babies are extremely likely to grow into fasciated plants. This has been a big frustration when plants become fasciated; trying to get a normal plant back by leaf cuttings doesn’t usually work. The baby plants may start to grow normally, but later become fasciated as they mature.

Q: Are bustled leaves a type of fasciation?

A: No, bustled leaves do not appear to be a type of fasciation. The extra leaves or bustle does not grow from a change of shape of the apical meristem. The extra growth appears where the leaf blade joins the petiole or is an outgrowth of the reverse side of the blade. This is a separate and different change in growth pattern and is not related to fasciation.

Support AVSA when you shop!



Did you know that Amazon has a program for shoppers to designate a charity of their choice, and Amazon will contribute a portion of every dollar you spend? Here’s an easy way to support the African Violet Society of America at NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!

Just go to smile.amazon.com and follow the directions.

Select African Violet Society of America as your organization to support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

How Many Leaves Does an African Violet Produce Each Week?

By Joyce Stork

Email: joycestork@avsa.org

Some African violets grow faster than others. Growers can observe that on their shelves. But how many leaves does an average violet produce each week? To discover the answer, I asked two friends — Adrienne Rieck in Illinois and Carolee Carter in Central Florida — to assist me in an experiment.

Each of us selected five non-blooming violets of different sizes and types from our shelves. We focused on non-blooming plants assuming that the energy of blooming might reduce the rate of leaf production, and thinking that

the flowers would interfere with counting leaves.

We began counting the leaves on August 1 and reported each Monday through September 26, 2022. Our growing rooms had different temperature and humidity conditions, but we all grew under lights and with wick watering. Various things happened as the plants grew, including grooming, suckering and buds setting on. These events may have affected leaf development, but we were looking for just a simple average.

How Many Leaves Does a Violet Produce Each Week?											
Variety	Type - Foliage	Leaf count	Leaf count	Leaf count	Leaf count	Leaf count	Leaf count	Leaf count	Leaf count	Leaf count	Total
		8/1	8/8	8/15	8/22	8/29	9/5	9/12	9/19	9/26	
Joyce - NV - Avg. Growing Temp: 78 F - Avg. Humidity 20%											
Precious Red (Pittman)	M-Green	9		13	15	19	19	21	25	28	19
Orchard's Bumble Magnet (Wilson)	M-Green	9	13	14	16	19	22	24-1	25	29	20
Rob's Pink Buttercups (Robinson)	SM-Var.	9	9	8	7	Died					
K's Freedom (Hajner)	St.-Green	22	25	25	25	26	28-6	25	25	25	9
King of Diamonds (Stork)	St.-Green	13	14	14	15	16	17	18-3	16	16	6
Adrienne - IL - Avg. Growing Temp: 72 F - Avg. Humidity 51%											
Crushed Velvet (Boone)	SM-Dk Green	21	22		24	24	24	27	28	31	10
Hunter's Nocturnal (Muzalewski)	St.-Var.	26	26		27	29	29	30	31	32	5
Optimara Michigan (Holtkamp)	St.-Med. Green	30	31		31	35	36	37	37	40	9
S. clone <i>orbicularis</i> (species)	Species-Green	40	43		44	45	47	47	48-2	51	13
Fresh Air (Stork/Holtzman)	St. Dk Green	45	46		47	48	51	50	51	52	7
Carolee - FL - Avg. Growing Temp: 80 (78 in late Sept) F - Avg. Humidity 35% (43% in late Sept)											
Cajun's Fickle Flirt (Thibodeaux)	St.-Var.	16	18	18	19-1	19-1	20	21	23	20-2	8
Wrangler's Dixie Celebration	Lg-Var.	22	22	23	24	23-1	26	28	29	29	8
Hunter's Pew Pew (Muzalewski)	St.-Green	12	13	14	16	17	17	18	19	20	8
Kayleh Marie (H. Pittman)	St.-Var.	18	19	20	20	20	24	25	25	26	8
Jolly Fairy (H. Pittman)	SM-Green	18	18-1	17	18-1	18-1	15-3	14-1	15	17-1	7
Result: On average, the test plants each gained 9.79 leaves during the 9 week period.											137
M = Miniature / SM = Semiminiature / St = Standard / Lg = Large standard / Var. = Variegated foliage											

Counting was more difficult than we expected. It was often necessary to examine closely to see the tiniest new leaves forming. And of course, it was easy to lose count as the number of leaves increased.

Observations:

- The violet producing 20 new leaves — the most in our nine-week period — was a miniature hybrid with green leaves, Orchard’s Bumble Magnet. The hybrid producing the fewest leaves, only five, was a variegated standard hybrid grown in the coolest growing area of our experimental group.
- The two miniatures in the experiment averaged a gain of 2.17 leaves per week. The two semiminiatures averaged 0.94 new leaves each week. The standards averaged a gain of 0.76 new leaves each week. The species *S. clone*

orbicularis produced five suckers at the same time that it produced 13 new leaves, which may have reduced the count of leaves.

- It would appear that the bigger the individual leaves are, the longer it takes for a new leaf to form, since standard hybrids were the slowest. More testing would be required to prove that.
- Miniatures in our experiment produced leaves twice as fast, but the test group was too small to rely on that result.
- This selected group of violets produced an average of 9.79 leaves during the nine-week study period, or 1.09 new leaves each week.

Our conclusion is that, on average, non-blooming violets are capable of producing about one new leaf each week when grown in proper conditions, including good light and adequate water.



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A Family Portrait: *Primulina pseudoglandulosa*

By Paul Kroll

Email: pfkroll@me.com

A number of years ago, the genus *Chirita* was studied and, after DNA samples were analyzed, it was decided that the genus should be divided and renamed to some extent. This resulted in several reclassifications and renamings. Some of us joke about writing gesneriad name tags in pencil since they will likely change. The use of DNA studies has affected many areas of our lives, from criminal investigations to botanical renaming.

My chosen subject for this article is a very attractive plant named *Primulina pseudoglandulosa*. It was previously known to growers as *Primulina glandulosa* var. *yangshuoensis*. The plant is very similar to the others in the genus previously named *Chiritopsis*. These plants are quite distinctive in that they have very turgid foliage and bloom stems, which are easily broken if care is not used when handling the pot and grooming. They have small, white



Primulina pseudoglandulosa. Photo credit: Mel Grice.

blooms in profusion, and the plant has a rather distinctive fragrance to its foliage and blossoms. Its strong petioles hold the leaves upright, and it makes a very attractive presentation whether on your growing shelves or entered as an exhibit in a show.

This variety has very shiny leaves that take on a slight patterning with distinct veining. Sometimes a bit of a different color is apparent; almost a golden glow. The plant's parts are sticky to the touch, indicating that its pollinators of choice are most likely small gnats or insects lured in and captured by the sticky plant parts.

I grow this plant as I do all other primulinas in my collection. It is happy under two T8 tubes

for about 12 hours of light a day. I water and fertilize once a week as usual with a 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water. The soil mixture is the same as for all my plants, which is an altered Fisher's Mix (Canadian recipe, with added vermiculite and perlite). I saucer water all my plants. I do not wick anything. I know that this plant will grow wicked.

The plant will sucker occasionally, but it usually grows single crowned. The suckers are quick fixes for propagation, as with African violets. Leaves root easily and produce plants the same as with African violet leaves.

P. pseudoglandulosa is an easy plant to grow, bloom and enjoy!

“Perfectly Pittman” Video

This video chronicles the multiple hybrids, growing techniques, growing spaces and AVSA involvement of Hortense and Ray Pittman.



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Getting to Know Elena Korshunova, Hybridizer from Russia

By Elena Korshunova

Editor's note: A version of this article first appeared in the Almanac of African Violet and Gesneriad World Today published in Moscow in January 2022.

I have been hybridizing large-flowered African violets for more than 20 years. Over the years, I have accumulated extensive experience in this area. Violets continue to constantly surprise me with new and unexpected gifts, such as an unusually colored blossom or elegantly colored foliage. I never tire of being surprised by the amazing possibilities of violets.



Elena Korshunova

When selecting from hundreds of seedlings, there are only a few that are destined to become named varieties. While it is not difficult to pollinate two violets with each other, it is difficult to predict future results. Therefore, I plan my work very carefully, taking into account the laws of heredity and the dominant and recessive traits of African violets. The main thing in hybridizing is to set a goal and go for

it. I love large-flowered varieties, so I reject seedlings with simple, medium-sized flowers, even if they have beautiful rosettes.

In order to obtain the desired result, I must conduct a chain of crosses. First, I cross two violets together. From this initial cross, I get seeds and grow out a lot of seedlings from them. I bring these seedlings to flowering, then look them over carefully for those that show desirable traits. Once I conduct a selection of promising-looking plants from the seedling group, I then cross these seedlings together. I also typically do some “reverse crosses,” which means that one or more of the selected seedlings are crossed back with the parent plant.

Most of my collection is grown on wick watering, on shelves with artificial lighting. My husband helps me; he pours an aqueous solution with a minimum amount of fertilizer into the wick containers once every three weeks, and also solves technical issues with lighting, air conditioning and so on. I keep order on the shelves, regularly remove faded flower stalks, transplant violets into fresh soil, cut them, etc.

At the beginning of each coming year, I always prepare several series of new varieties, which I then include in my catalog. I come up with names for them, write up descriptions and take photos. And while all of this is extremely exciting, it is also very time consuming!

In addition to hybridizing, I send out parcels with leaf cuttings of my varieties throughout Russia and abroad. My husband and I also hold

large African violet shows in Tolyatti several times a year.

The names of my varieties are written with the prefix EK to designate that they have been hybridized by me. More than 100 of my EK varieties have been registered with the African Violet Society of America with the assistance of Vladimir Kalgin. My varieties are popular with collectors not only in Russia but all over the world. EK varieties are in the collections of many famous hybridizers, such as Paul Sorano and Ralph Robinson. Steve and Donna Turner grow a lot of my varieties.



EK-larkaia Dusha Oseni



EK-Aist na Kryshe



EK-Veselaia Klumba



EK-Energia Zhizni

Sometimes I may name a varietal series. For example, I have a series of what I call Heavenly Gems. Most of the varieties included in this series have a two-tone color (streaks on a white

background). The color of these streaks varies from the richness of pure sky-blue shades to gentle bluish-lavender sunrise colors, dusky purple sunsets, deep evening blue and fresh light blue. All these varieties flower profusely with large-flowered, show-quality rosettes.

Three varieties from this collection have been given the names Faith, Hope and Love. We truly believe that we cannot live without faith, hope and love. No matter what happens to us in life, we always want to believe that good will prevail. And no matter what difficulties or adversity we face, we hope for the best. And, of course, we love, because life without love is impossible. We love spring and autumn, the forest and the sea, the rain and the blue sky, and we love our friends and family. Only by

loving everything around us can we be truly happy. This is especially true for women who are given the names Faith, Hope and Love at birth — their destinies are in their names.



EK-Svetlyi Terem

By visiting my website, www.ek-fialki.com, you can view photos and descriptions of the EK varieties, get the latest news, read articles

about violets and reviews of my work and orders sent, virtually visit my AV shows, download a text catalog and visit the photo gallery. You can also view the archive, which includes all the EK varieties, and vote for the variety you like the best.



EK-Osennii Bal

African Violet Magazine Article and Column Deadlines

- January/February issue: November 1
- March/April issue: January 1
- May/June issue: March 1
- July/August issue: May 1
- September/October issue: July 1
- November/December issue: September 1

We would love to hear from you! Please send articles or article ideas for the *AVM* to Sophia Bennett at editor@avsa.org.



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Mary Craig

Hybridized by: R. Nadeau
Grown by: Wayne Geeslin
Large



Photo credit: Daria Lyagina

DV-Improvizatsiia

2022 New Introduction

Hybridized by: D. Lyagina
Standard

What You Need to Know Now About Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV)

By Sandra Skalski

Email: publications@avsa.org

If you are active on social media or belong to an African violet or gesneriad club, you may have heard talk of people losing their plants to a virus called INSV (Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus). What is INSV and how can you protect your collection?

INSV is a common plant virus that infects hundreds of different species of ornamental and food crop plants. It is found in all areas of the world and is responsible for millions of dollars in crop losses every year. Once infected, plants must be destroyed since there is no cure and the infected plants become a source of infection for other plants.



Each plant virus has particular ways of spreading. This process is called vectoring. Insects, mites, aphids, nematodes, tools and even your hands can vector specific plant viruses. The main vector for INSV is the Western flower thrips (WFT), *Frankliniella occidentalis*. Several other species of thrips are potential vectors, but WFTs are the most important.

WFTs acquire the virus when they feed on an infected plant in one of their two larval stages. An uninfected adult cannot acquire the virus even when it feeds on an infected plant and thus cannot transmit it. If a female thrips lays her eggs on an infected plant, the emerging larvae will feed on the plant and become infected. Once the larvae have the virus, it multiplies in their salivary glands. Each time the new adult thrips feeds, it transmits the virus through its saliva. It takes an adult only five minutes of feeding to transmit INSV. This is why when thrips show up in your collection, you need to act fast to eliminate them.

Experts disagree as to whether INSV can be transferred by infected sap on your hands or tools. Thrips feeding deposits virus particles directly into the vascular system of plants, which then spread throughout the plant. Typical grooming of plants with hands or tools tends to crush plant cells, which is not conducive to moving the virus into the plant. The good news is that by following the best practice of sanitizing tools between plants, you can avoid the slim possibility of plant-to-plant transmission via infected sap. I wipe my tools with 91% isopropyl alcohol. You can also use Physan 20 or a 10% bleach solution.

Virus symptoms show up as damaged plant tissue and can be easily confused with fungal diseases, poor culture and physical damage. The damage you see is related to the immune response from the plant. Sniffles, cough and fever can mean you have a cold, the flu or

COVID-19. Similarly, necrotic spots, ring spots, line patterns, stunted growth, blackened petioles, distorted leaves, mottling and mosaic patterns are all possible virus symptoms on African violets. The question is, which virus?

If you suspect you have a plant infected with a virus and don't have a reason to suspect INSV or another virus in particular, the best course of action is to take or send the plant to your state or local agricultural extension. They can test for all of the "big four": INSV, tomato spotted wilt (TSW), cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) and tobacco mosaic virus (TMV).

Once you know what virus plagues your plant, you can buy test kits for that particular pathogen from Agdia (www.Agdia.com). Tests are sold in kits of five or 25 tests. Be sure to read all of the instructions carefully. If possible, use symptomatic tissue. The test calls for a 1-inch square of tissue. If you use significantly more tissue, you may get inaccurate results. False positives are extremely rare and are usually related to testing red plant tissue. False negatives are more common. Although the virus is all through the plant, it is not evenly distributed. You may have chosen a leaf with a low level of virus, or perhaps the plant was recently infected.

There are two main ways INSV can enter your collection. An infected thrips can come into your growing area. INSV is a common virus that infects outdoor plants like basil and tomatoes. It also infects many perennials and weeds like chickweed. WFTs are unlikely to survive in areas with cold winters. However, INSV can survive in weeds or perennials.

The second way you can get INSV is to bring an infected plant into your collection. Most of the time, the new plants you buy or are gifted look strong and healthy. Violets infected with INSV can look perfectly fine. The virus can stay dormant for many months. Sometimes, a

change in temperature or stress on the plant can bring on symptoms. If the virus-infected plant enters your collection and you get thrips, the thrips can spread the virus to the rest of your plants.

If new plants look sick right out of the box, don't take a chance. It might be shipping stress, but it might be something much more serious. The same goes for any plant infested with pests, especially thrips. Bag any plants with pests and dispose of them.

How can you protect your collection from INSV? First, keep thrips out of your growing area. Thrips can live for more than a month, and an infected thrips can transmit the virus its entire life. If they show up in your collection, make eliminating them quickly your No. 1 job.

Second, isolate all new plants and leaves. Consider new plants and leaves quarantined until they prove to be healthy. A six-month isolation is common among seasoned growers. I isolate new plants for one year in a warm room far from my main collection. The trash can is your friend. If your new plants are not thriving after an isolation of six to 12 months, there's a good chance they aren't healthy. Don't risk the rest of your collection for these few.

What should you do if you suspect you have a plant or plants infected by a virus? Always remove questionable plants from your growing area and isolate them in another room, preferably in a sealed container or zippy bag. If the plant was not isolated, get a diagnosis via your local agricultural extension or purchase test kits. This is especially important if you've also had a recent thrips problem.

In the next issue, I'll discuss INSV in more detail and include more photos of symptoms on violets and gesneriads. Plus, I'll share information about three other common viruses: tomato spotted wilt, cucumber mosaic virus and tobacco mosaic virus.

The Prodigious Benefits of Investing in a Plant Room Humidifier

By Paul F. Kilroy

Email: onpilgrimage8512@yahoo.com

If you are an African violet grower who lives in the arid Southwest or some other part of the country where the air is generally dry as a chip, why not consider investing in a humidifier for your plant room? African violets and other plants need adequate humidity levels to be able to grow and blossom at their best. They can show stress resulting from atmospheric dryness by developing foliage that is curled, misshapen or has browning edges; by being less floriferous than they otherwise might be; or they might just eventually die. Misting your plants offers but a fleeting solution by temporarily raising humidity levels, and the use of gravel-filled humidity trays — though a somewhat better choice — still can't compete with the consistently elevated moisture level a good humidifier will provide.

Domes are great for maintaining moisture levels for semiminiature, miniature and micro-miniature AVs, as well as other small gesneriads that benefit from a constant higher humidity level than may be found in the average home. But due to a dome's size limitations, you really can't grow even a smaller-sized standard AV under one for long, nor a waterfall-sized *Episcia* or exuberantly sprawling *Streptocarpus*.

Some growers even resort to covering their grow stands in plastic sheeting in order to provide higher humidity for their plants, and some have good results doing this (usually growers with plant rooms in a cool basement). One problem that may result, however, is the

buildup of heat from the lighting sources on stands that are enclosed. And what about the total lack of air circulation? Besides all this, do you really want to grow your plant collection in some sort of plastic-draped enclosure instead of out in the open where they are enjoyably visible? All things considered, why not think about investing in a humidifier for your plant room?

The type of humidifier I use in my own plant room (and recommend) is the larger floor-model evaporative type.

There are several varieties of humidifiers available to choose from. Cool-mist humidifiers use a fan or ultrasonic vibrations to expel cool water vapor into the air, while warm-mist humidifiers raise humidity levels by heating water and releasing hot steam into the air. There are pros and cons to each of these types of humidifiers that are more involved than can be explained here, but may be researched on the internet.

The type of humidifier I use in my own plant room (and recommend) is the larger floor-model evaporative type, which raises humidity levels by expelling moisture into the room in the form of humidified air that has been drawn through a water-wicking pad, just like the old swamp coolers folks used to cool their homes before the advent of modern air conditioning.

Humidity levels in the desert area in which I live can drop below 20%, and most African violets and other gesneriads come from parts of the world where humidity levels are 70% or higher. While a grower would not want a plant room in their home to be so humid that it has an atmosphere like soup, I find that keeping my humidifier set at 50% is not only comfortable for me, but very beneficial for my plants. Signs of plant stress resulting from a humidity level too low have disappeared on my stands. Foliage develops fully and with no curling or brown edges, and my blooming plants are more floriferous, producing larger blooms that last longer. Also, I find episcias, columneas, microminiature sinningias and other gesneriads that traditionally might only do their best in a conservatory or under a dome do extremely well growing on my plant stands right in the open.

If you have had issues with your plants not looking or blooming their best, and you've got good lighting and the room temperature is about right, there is a good chance that an increase in humidity will make all the difference between your plants looking just OK or looking their very best.

Basic evaporative floor-model humidifiers such as I have recommended are usually under \$150. You will also need to purchase a replacement pad on occasion when the current one calcifies or degrades. The pros of one of these floor model units is that you probably only have to fill it on a weekly basis, instead of daily like the table models, and the use of distilled water is unnecessary. There will be no calcium buildup over time in the unit itself (as any buildup gets tossed out with the pad when you eventually replace it with a new one). There are also no health concerns such as those that may come with long-term inhalation of the mineral-laden cool mist produced by the ultrasonic types.

Here's one additional tip, albeit a random one: A few glugs of culinary rose water or orange water in your humidifier's water tank will have your grow room smelling like (yes, you guessed it) roses or orange blossoms.

The advertisement features a background of purple and white African violet flowers. On the left, a large, stylized pink letter 'J' is partially visible, with the word 'Join' written in a pink script font. A circular logo with a white border contains the text 'African Violet Society of America'. To the right, the text 'JOIN TODAY!' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, the text 'Learn more at' is in a smaller white font, followed by the website 'africanvioletsofamerica.org' in a larger white font. Below the website, the phone number '(409) 839-4725' is listed. At the bottom right, the address 'P.O. Box 22417' and 'Beaumont, TX 77720' are provided. At the very bottom, a small line of text reads: 'AVSA is non-profit, educational organization dedicated to helping African violet enthusiasts enjoy these beautiful plants.'

Grooming for Show... Grooming as You Grow

By Kurt Jablonski

Email: kurtmjablonski@yahoo.com

If you've ever had the pleasure of chatting with Pat Hancock, hybridizer of the Buckeye African violets, you know that she often talks about three important aspects of violet growing: touching your plants, judging African violets, and the importance of grooming your show plants on a consistent basis. In this article, I will discuss the importance of grooming African violets for show.

I am a better grower today than I was a few years ago because I started working with my plants every day. The main thing that I have done is groom my violets and remove the bottom three leaves every time I repot. African violets grow leaves in sets of three. It is these sets of three leaves that form triangles. Eventually these triangles overlap each other to form a round, symmetrical plant. For this reason it is important that we groom as we grow.

In judging violets, symmetry accounts for 25 points out of 100, but as far as I'm concerned, it is the most important part of growing the plant. Without a good foundation of foliage, it doesn't matter how nice a head of bloom you have. For this reason, I have made it my mission to have the best foliage I possibly can. This starts with grooming your plants from the time they are in Solo cups until they reach maturity.

All marred, broken and immature leaves should be removed — always. Any time you remove one leaf from a row, because it is

either smaller or damaged, look for the other two leaves in that row, and remove them as well. This will ensure that you do not end up with a lopsided plant. Many people are obsessed with big African violets, and are swayed by their size. But if you read the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* there are no extra points for big plants. The true goal is perfection!

It took me a long time to understand this. After going to violet shows and seeing these humongous violet plants, I was determined to do it myself. In my early years of growing that meant leaving on damaged, immature leaves in the outside row of the plant, just because the plant had achieved the size I wanted. The problem was the plant looked awful because there were so many leaves that needed to be removed. It was so far from perfect. If only I knew then, what I know now...

Thinking about it logically may help you understand the importance of removing those leaves. If a plant has extra rows of unnecessary leaves, there is the potential to have more points taken off during judging. More leaves equal more leaves to be judged. It is for this reason that your plant must be groomed all the time as it goes from pot size to pot size. Removing these lower three leaves every time you repot (which should be every two to three months when growing for show) stimulates the center leaves to grow, and you will see that the overall size

of the leaves actually increases. (This is Pat's method for growing larger, perfect plants.)

This method is very beneficial because you can achieve a mature, symmetrical plant with fewer rows of leaves if your leaves are larger. Larger leaves overlap each other better and cover all of the soil. No soil should ever be visible when you look down on an African violet. So it is important to groom, groom, groom!

Symmetry is defined as the shape of the whole plant. Not just the outermost row of leaves. Baby, marred and off-size leaves are not only present in the outermost row but can many times be found in the middle of the plant. These smaller rows of leaves often develop if you did not pot up your plant at the right time. The plant is used to constantly being potted up, which stimulates the growth of the center. If this is not maintained, the plant will throw out a smaller row of leaves. That is why it is crucial to incrementally pot up your plants every two to three months using the mold-potting (pot in pot) method. This will almost always eliminate the occurrence of off-size leaves in the middle of the plant.

If you have a row of smaller leaves in the middle of your plant, you will lose points under Condition (up to 1 point each). If your plant develops smaller leaves in the middle, try and remove those three leaves as soon as possible. You should be able to easily snap them out. Catching them early usually means the new growth will fill in and cover where those smaller leaves would have been. I have done it myself with excellent results. Your plants won't miss a beat. It is for this reason that you must be a diligent grower in your practices with your plants, and repot and groom on a regular schedule.

Also, there is a fine line between grooming enough and over-grooming. You do not want to over-groom your plant, because then it will never grow or achieve show plant status. I know growers who hover over their plants, constantly removing leaves that should be left on. Your plants do need your utmost attention, but you can also easily overdo it. When I first started, one of my early club members, Barbara Jones, told me if I didn't quit constantly taking leaves off my standards, I'd never get them out of Solo cups. Boy was she right. So, if I can learn, so can you!

Every time I visit a violet show, I'm amazed at the amount of unnecessary leaves left on plants that should have been removed while the plants were growing. Grooming is truly what makes the difference between a blue ribbon and Best in Show. Even growers who have been growing for years and are considered veterans in the violet world surprised me when I saw all the baby, marred and off-size leaves left on their plants. To me, these leaves stick out like sore thumbs. You must train your eye if you want to grow show plants. Train your eye for symmetry and leaf perfection. If these exhibitors had just gone back to basics and groomed their plants from early on, the quality of all the exhibits in the show could have been sky high.

When you arrive at Classification and Entries, you should not be there for hours grooming your plants. All of that should have been done throughout the growing stages. You can't expect to turn your frog into a prince right then and there. The only things that should be done are last minute touch-ups. This includes brushing your leaves, removing spent blooms, propping leaves on each other and repositioning bloom stems that moved around in transit. All other grooming should

already be done. I honestly cringe when I see exhibitors pull out white index cards and start covering questionable leaves that they think need to be removed. At show time that shouldn't be necessary because there shouldn't be any leaves that need to be removed if the plant was groomed properly its entire life.

Our violet shows are about stimulating interest in the public and showing them the beauty of our hybrids as well as our ability to grow beautiful plants. We need to put on the best possible shows so we can encourage the public to grow African violets. The very first time I saw show plants, I fell in love with their beauty. Knowing that they could be grown like that made me interested, and I joined a local club and AVSA. The same might be true of some potential violet grower. Also, I have heard from many judges that it is much harder to judge poor-quality plants than really good plants. If nothing else, let's try to make it easier on the judges, and improve our growing so that we can attract new members to AVSA.

I have included several photos of Buckeye Main Event that show the three-leaf pattern and overlapping triangles that I spoke about in the article. You will notice in Photo 1 that



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 1



Photo 4

the plant started out as two triangles. Four months later (photo 2) it was three triangles. Photo 3 shows the circular shape starting to appear. Photo 4 shows the round plant before bloom. Finally, in photo 5, you can see the plant is mature and has a completely round shape. I repotted the plant every two to three months, and I took off the bottom three leaves. In the end, I was left with a plant that was round, symmetrical and had zero baby, marred or misshapen leaves.

In the final photo, you can see me with the plant, which was part of my Buckeye Collection in Albuquerque. Try this method on a few plants. I know that consistent grooming



Photo 5

and removing those three outside leaves makes for a more perfect plant every time!



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Buckeye Country Gal

Hybridized by: P. Hancock
Grown by: Michael Jackson
Large

2023 AVSA Special Awards List

By Vickie Crider

Email: conventionawards@avsa.org

At each AVSA Convention, the society gives out numerous special awards that are generously sponsored by clubs, companies and individuals. This is the list of awards donated to date. If you or your club would like to

■ Specified Awards —

Amateur Division Collection

- \$300 Best Holtkamp Collection
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Reinhold Holtkamp (TN)
- \$200 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Reinhold Holtkamp (TN)
- \$100 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Reinhold Holtkamp (TN)
- \$200 Best Robinson Collection
The Violet Barn
Dr. Ralph and Olive Robinson (NY)
- \$100 2nd Best Robinson Collection
The Violet Barn
Dr. Ralph and Olive Robinson (NY)
- \$200 Best Buckeye Collection
Pat Hancock (OH)
- \$100 2nd Best Buckeye Collection
Pat Hancock (OH)
- \$300 Best Russian Collection
Tatiana and Vladimir Kalgin (Russia)
- \$200 2nd Best Russian Collection
Tatiana and Vladimir Kalgin (Russia)
- \$100 3rd Best Russian Collection
Tatiana and Vladimir Kalgin (Russia)
- \$200 Best Lyon's Collection
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Paul Sorano (NY)
- \$100 2nd Best Lyon's Collection
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Paul Sorano (NY)

donate to the 2023 award fund, there is still time! Please contact me. A complete list of AVSA Special Awards will be available on the convention website.

- \$250 Best Cajun's Collection
Dr. Minh Bui (MD)

■ Specific Variety Awards —

Amateur Horticulture

- \$100 Best Concord
Kazuo Horikoshi (Japan)
- \$50 Best Del's Spring Blush
Violet Reflections Group (IN)
(In memory of Del Setchel)
- \$50 Best Lela Marie
Early Bird Violet Club
Brenda Posey (AL)
- \$50 Best Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler
Cincinnati AVS
Sandy McIntosh (KY)
- \$50 Best Buckeye Seductress
Pat Hancock (OH)
- \$50 Best Jitterbug Breathless
Cincinnati AVS (OH)
- \$30 Best Buffalo Hunt
Tulsa AVS
Randy Deutsch (SD)
- \$25 Best Aca's Libbie
Bluebird Greenhouses
Tom and Libbie Glembocki (FL)
- \$25 Best Cabbage Patch
Terri Post (IA)
- \$25 Best Cajun's Code Blue
Karen Buchanan (TN)
- \$25 Best Everdina of Han Inpijn
Mary Corondan (TX)

- \$25 Best Hunter's Exit Wound
Karen Buchanan (TN)
- \$25 Best Maas' Janet
Janet Riemer (NJ)
- \$25 Best LE-Karusel'
Starz N Streps
Steve and Donna Turner (SC)
- \$25 Best Lonestar Helen Mahr
Anne Nicholas (TX)
(In Memory of Richard Nicholas)
- \$25 Best Lonestar Lady
Anne Nicholas (TX)
(In Memory of Richard Nicholas)
- \$25 Best Lonestar Snowstorm
Marge Savage (TX)
(In Memory of Richard Nicholas)
- \$25 Best Lonestar Twilight
Anne Nicholas (TX)
(In Memory of Richard Nicholas)
- \$25 Best Rockin Romance
Cathleen Graves (WA)
- \$25 Best Wrangler's Spanish Cavalier
Bluebird Greenhouses
Tom and Libbie Glembocki (FL)

- \$25 Best Tina (Maas)
Janet Riemer (NJ)
- \$20 Best Marching Band
Karyn Cichocki (NJ)
(In Memory of Kent Stork)
- \$20 Best Rodeo Country
Spring Branch AVC
Teresa Kaminski (TX)

■ **Specified Awards —
Commercial Division Collection**

- \$300 Best Holtkamp Collection
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Reinhold Holtkamp (TN)
- \$200 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Reinhold Holtkamp (TN)
- \$100 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Reinhold Holtkamp (TN)

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bloomlala.com/collections/violet



AVSA National Convention 2023: Where Do We Eat?

By Randy G. Deutsch

Email: fundraising@avsa.org

One of our favorite things to do when we go to an AVSA National Convention is gather with our violet friends and go out to eat together. We really hit the jackpot this year with the location of our convention. Here are a few ideas to keep in mind when at convention in Atlanta. All of these locations are very close to our hotel.

Fandangles — 165 Courtland St. NE. Located inside our Sheraton hotel! Just head to the third floor. They have a great menu with a large assortment of items, including many gluten-free and vegetarian options. And I've heard they have the best warm and gooey peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream around.

Hsu's Gourmet Chinese Restaurant — 192 Peachtree Center Ave. NE. Very close to the hotel, how about a family-run standby known for its large selection of Chinese dishes, including noodles and soups. You will agree it is an amazing dinner experience. They serve the best Szechuan- and Cantonese-style cuisine in the city.

Cuts Steakhouse — 60 Andrew Young International Blvd. NE. Looking for an upscale Southern-style steakhouse that serves it all? Then this is the place. They even have an outdoor patio seating area. They are known for offering irresistible short ribs, succulent steaks, and Southern classics such as shrimp and grits and fried lobster tail. This is a steakhouse that is a cut above the rest.

Alma Cocina Downtown — 191 Peachtree Towers. This is a restaurant offering inventive Mexican fare with regional influences and a very stylish Latin-inspired setting. It is an upscale restaurant that also boasts an affordable menu.

Crazy ATLanta Travel BAR, Street Food & Event Venue — 182 Courtland St. NE. This place might look dingy from the outside, but come inside for a great atmosphere and guaranteed fun. They offer the most famous and recognized street food dishes from all over the globe. They also serve something called a Crazydrink menu because they want to welcome people from "everywhere and anywhere!"

Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken — Peachtree Center, 231 W. Peachtree St. NW. Yep, chicken is what's on the menu, and this place is world famous for its recipe. They only serve fresh, never frozen, natural, hormone-free chicken, and they fry everything in peanut oil. They have lots of Southern-style sides and desserts available as well.

Aviva by Kameel Mediterranean Grill — 756 W. Peachtree St. NW. Visit this family-owned restaurant for fresh, tasty Middle Eastern meals and hospitality designed to make everyone feel like they're part of the family. Hummus, falafel, chicken shwarma and baklava are among the many delicious choices.

SAVE THE DATE!

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Annual Convention and Show
"WHERE IT ALL BEGAN"
MAY 28 – JUNE 4, 2023

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Friday, June 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel
165 Courtland St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

AVSA 2023 Atlanta Convention Souvenir Book Ads

By Kathy Lahti

Email: convention@avsa.org

This year's AVSA National Convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from May 28 to June 4. The theme is "Where it all Began."

We invite you to advertise in our Convention Souvenir Book. Ads can be well wishes or advertising, which will help defray costs. Ads are an excellent way to promote your organization or business.

The maximum size of a full-page ad is 8 inches high by 5 inches wide. The cost is \$90. A half-page ad is 4 inches high by 5 inches wide and \$50. A quarter-page ad is 2 inches high by 5 inches wide and \$30. All inside ads will be in black and white. We also offer three full-page ads placed on the inside front cover, inside back cover and outside back cover for \$125 if printed in black and white, or \$150 if printed in color. Only cover pages can be in color.

To purchase an ad, please contact:

Janet Castiglione
Souvenir Book Chair
313 Plantation Oak Ave.
Denton, TX 75065
jmcvioletcas@gmail.com

The deadline for all ads is April 23. Camera-ready copy is preferred (PDF, Word doc or jpeg file).

Checks or money orders in USD should be made payable to AVSA-Atlanta and sent to:

Terri Post
Atlanta Convention Treasurer
29384 Diamante Drive
Sioux City, IA 51109

Thank you in advance for your support!

Registration for Judging School for Students and Certificate Renewals

By Mary Corondan

Email: judges@avsa.org

AVSA will offer a judging school for members during the 2023 Atlanta convention. The school, taught by Jim Boyer, will be held on Wednesday, May 31. It is geared to people at all levels and appropriate as a first-time

judging school, to qualify for a certificate renewal or simply as an interesting class for established judges to keep judging criteria up to date. The school will focus on judging an AVSA show.

The class will begin at 8:15 a.m. and last until 12:15 p.m. then break for lunch, with practice judging from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. After a short break, the exam will begin at 2:30 p.m. You must attend both sessions to take the exam. (Other than the 8:15 a.m. start, exact times may vary slightly.)

The exam has two parts. Complete Part 1 (50 points) at home as an open book test. You must turn it in at the beginning of class on May 31. Part 2 (40 points) is an in-class written test, plus point scoring of two specimen African violet plants (10 points). Part 1 of the exam will be emailed to each registered student on May 6 (USPS available on request).

You must present a current AVSA membership card and judge's card (if already a judge) at the door. If you have your proof of three blue

ribbons, that documentation should be presented. Since proof of three blue ribbons is currently being waived, you may take the exam; however, a judge's card will not be issued until Jim Boyer is contacted and proof of three blue ribbons is presented. There are no requirements for those who wish to audit the school. All students must bring a current copy of the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* (14th Edition, revised May 2022) to the school.

The \$15 registration fee applies to all who attend the judging school, either to take the test or to audit the class. Registration will be posted under the Participation tab, Convention listing, on the AVSA website. *Do not send payment to the teacher.* Registration and payment are due by May 4.

Donate to the AVSA Convention Luncheon Auction

By Candace Baldwin

Email: auction@avsa.org

Going once, going twice, sold! Those are sweet words when you've found, bid on and won that special item at the Luncheon Auction held each year at the AVSA National Convention.

It all starts with generous donations from our individual members, commercial members and clubs alike. Donations can be a violet-related item or anything rare, unique or unusual in

nature. Better yet, perhaps a starter plant (or two or three) of recent introductions or vintage plants.

If you've never been, come see what the buzz is all about. It's great fun to bid and even more fun to win knowing that with every contribution (either donating or bidding), you're supporting AVSA.

Fund Reports for September/October 2022

By Randy G. Deutsch and Janet Riemer

Email: fundraising@avsa.org

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund: \$300

The Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund supports the long-term stability of the Society.

■ **\$50 to \$99**

Vivian Bickley, Ft. Wayne, IN
Virginia Scarbrough, Spotsylvania, VA
Black Oak Violets, Paradise, PA
Ohio State African Violet Society

■ **\$25 to \$49**

Quad Cities African Violet Society, IA
First Nighter African Violet Society, TX
*(In honor of Janet Castiglione in
lieu of speaker's fee)*

■ **Under \$25**

Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR
Sheryl Zawaotski, Hudson, WI
Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN
Jim Schrader, Yorba Linda, CA

Barbara Burde Endowment Fund: \$1,158

The Barbara Burde Endowment Fund supports the Society's long-term needs in technology.

■ **\$900 to \$999**

Tustana AVS, CA

■ **\$100 to \$199**

The Tidewater AVS, VA
*(In memory of Carol Van, Nancy Weller,
Norma Griswold, Alice Terry Jordan)*

■ **\$50 to \$99**

Black Oak Violets, Paradise, PA

■ **\$25 to \$49**

Leonard Re, Fountain Valley, CA

■ **Under \$25**

Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN
Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR

Booster Donations: \$2,215

Booster Donations support AVSA's ongoing general expenses.

■ **\$2,000 to \$2,999**

Vivian Hiltz, Kensington, CT

■ **\$100 to \$199**

Jeri Anderson, Tucson, AZ

■ **\$50 to \$99**

Black Oak Violets, Paradise, PA

■ **\$25 to \$49**

John Novak, Solvang, CA

■ **Under \$25**

Debra Black, Deland, FL
Emilie Harvey, Quebec, Canada
Mary Moreno, Albuquerque, NM
Robin Murray, Aptos, CA
Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN
Jim Schrader, Yorba Linda, CA
Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR
Wilma Wolverton, Grain Valley, MO

Boyce Edens Research Fund: \$85

The Boyce Edens Research Fund supports research and scholarships.

■ **\$25 to \$49**

AVC of Morris County, NJ

■ **Under \$25**

Ann Athey, Denton, TX
Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN
Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR
Nicole Zacharia, State College, PA

In Memory

Thelma S. Thompson

Thelma S. Thompson (better known as Mrs. T) passed away on October 9. She was 99. Mrs. T was an active member of the Upstate African Violet Club in South Carolina when it was called the First African Violet Society of Spartanburg. She loved botany from the time she was a little girl growing up on a farm, which was further developed by an aunt with a greenhouse who instilled in her many things but, most importantly, the passion and care of being a green thumb and the power of herbs, plants and the garden. When she was more spry, she utilized her acres to create a

community garden in addition to the special collection of African violets in her house.

Mrs. T loved this poem:

She who plants and nurtures an African violet reveals her skill in science, in art and crafts.

She who plants an African violet and is rewarded with clusters of flowers has an awareness that a flowering African violet is the sweetest thing God ever made and forgot to put a soul into.



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

S. 5h clone rupicolus lite

Grown by: William Patterson



AV Creative Corner: African Violet Journal

By Rich Follett

Email: avcreativecorner@gmail.com

Hello, everyone! Here we are at the start of a brand-new year — the perfect time to begin an African violet journal! All you need to undertake this project is a blank journal of some sort (even a composition notebook will do), something to write with, and the desire to get to know yourself and your plants a little better. The possibilities are endless: You can make notes of favorite plants, bloom cycles, responses to different conditions, present and possible hybridizations, your “wish list,” trades, culture tips, and reflections on AV events and friendships old and new. The sky is the limit.

If you are a crafty type, you can decorate the pages of your journal with illustrations or diagrams. If you are not gifted at drawing, you can cut pictures of AV blooms and leaves from old magazines, print pictures from your computer and trim to size, or press AV flowers to adorn the pages or even the cover. Handwritten journals have been prized as heirlooms for generations. You might be crafting a legacy as you enjoy documenting your thoughts and observations.

For an ideal all-occasion gift, start with a blank journal and decorate a few pages throughout to get the recipient started. As they complete the journal, every decorated page will be a new treasure to discover. A journal is also a great way to get younger enthusiasts involved with growing and showing AVs. Unleash your

inner artist and have fun — there is really no way to get it wrong.

If you get a journal started, take a picture of the cover or your favorite page and email it to avcreativecorner@gmail.com by March 1, 2023 for possible publication in a future *AVM* issue.

Handwritten journals
have been prized
as heirlooms for
generations. You
might be crafting a
legacy as you enjoy
documenting your
thoughts and
observations.

Congratulations to Casey King of DeLand, Florida, who won the African violet stamp offered by Carolee Carter in the September/October *AVM*. Happy crafting, Casey, and thanks, Carolee!



Photo credit: Galina Lazarenko

LiK-Shato Margo

2022 New Introduction

Hybridized by: G. Lazarenko
Standard



New Life from a Leaf

By Rich Follett

Email: secretary@avsa.org

My grandmother Helen's lone African violet lived on a deep windowsill at the bend in the stairs of her rambling Victorian house, in a south-facing window which I now know was far too sunny for any African violet. It was perpetually underwatered, burned by direct sunlight, probably had not been repotted in more than a decade and had a long neck and woody stem, but somehow it survived. I would visit her every week and would sometimes give the plant some much-needed water. Other than a passing curiosity on my part, though, the violet and I had no relationship to speak of.

That all changed when, one Sunday afternoon between arrival and dinner, I was examining the plant and my grandmother came up behind me, plucked off one of its greenest leaves, pinned it to the kitchen curtain with a straight pin and cheerfully announced, "Lambie, this will be for you." I was completely mystified and utterly enthralled! In the weeks to come, I would race to the kitchen straight from the car to check on my leaf every Sunday. Inexplicably, it remained green and full of promise. As an adult, I have learned the answer to the riddle: My grandmother was a devoted tea drinker, and the steam from her thrice-daily boiling kettle kept the leaf hydrated and supple. As a child, however, the mystery was all-consuming and my sense of wonder, absolute.

About three weeks after the magic began, that little leaf sent out air roots like a boy's first

chin hairs; a week after that, my grandmother took it down off the curtain and suspended it through aluminum foil over a jelly jar filled with water. All through the winter, my African violet continued to sprout, eventually growing mouse-ear leaves and a gossamer root system. All the while, I was mesmerized — completely captivated by new life springing from a single leaf.

On my birthday in the spring, the fully formed fledgling African violet plant was all dressed up in a little clay pot with a bright blue ribbon and waiting by my plate at dinnertime. I felt as if I had been given the key to an enchanted kingdom.

I was 13 years old when my grandmother gave me that heirloom violet. Childhood innocence faded soon after, and my grandmother died two years later (my first taste of adulthood came in processing her death), but I managed to keep that African violet alive for another 33 years. It became all the more dear to me as a living link to my beloved grandmother. I planted it in the same ceramic pot that my grandmother had used (the parent plant had long since died, my attentions having turned to its progeny), which I retrieved from the windowsill and cleaned up. Sadly, my precious African violet succumbed in its fourth decade to a power outage during a cold snap while my wife and I were away from home, but I am grateful to have had it for so long and for all of the memories that it held.

When the African Violet Society of America held its annual convention only one hour's drive from my home, I attended out of curiosity and was absolutely astounded at the variety of African violets on display. There were plants two feet across and others as small as a quarter, trailing violets cascading like ivy out of compotes and off pedestals, violets in virtually every color of the rainbow and blooms of many different shapes and sizes. I joined as a life member on the spot and have been learning about African violets and enjoying the society of other enthusiasts ever since. Some of my closest friends have become a part of my life through the world of African violets,

and all from my grandmother Helen's gift of a single rooted leaf.

One of my greatest joys, to this day, is to grow new plants from the leaves of my own African violets, so I can share them with others — including the 100+ school children who fill my Theatre Arts classroom with their boundless energy every year. They are just as fascinated by the magic of the leaf as I was when I was their age. I will always be grateful to my grandmother Helen for her gift of new life from a leaf — a gift that is still giving, all these years later.

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2023 African Violet Society of America Calendar



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Mom's African Violets

By Ceil Carey

Email: jackandceil@att.net

My mother, Elizabeth Kramer (1923-2016), had a green thumb! She had some lovely flowers in the yard, but her *piece de resistance* was her beautiful array of African violets. At one point, she had close to 50 scattered throughout our ranch-style home. Mom was also a perfectionist, so every one of those plants was kept trimmed — no dead flowers ever allowed — and her pots and trays were sparkling clean.

My sister remembers that Mom said violets should have an eastern exposure (not sure

she always followed that rule herself), but as the family member who carried on Mom's plant legacy, I put them wherever they thrive. I have never sold any of my violets, but when I give them away, each one bears a tag calling them Lizzie's Violets in her honor.

My mom has been gone six years now, but every violet makes me think of her and her love for these beautiful plants.



Photo credit: Belinda Thibodeaux

Cajun's Gilded Strawberry

2022 New Introduction

Hybridized by: B. Thibodeaux
Standard



Photo credit: Elena Korshunova

EK-Dekabr'skoe Utro

2022 New Introduction

Hybridized by: E. Korshunova
Standard

Membership includes: Welcome package for new members; Quarterly issues of *Gesneriads*, the Journal for Gesneriad Growers; access to the Seed Fund; downloadable PDF copies of the journal



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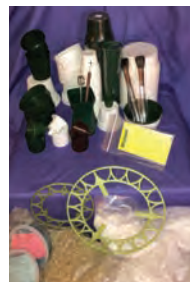
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By Pauline Bartholomew and The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

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At left: one of our 'Ma's' standard varieties grown by Alexandra Kravtsov

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